

O-F-F-I-C-I-A-L U-S-E O-N-L-Y

PROCIB-D-20  
1 December 1959

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Control: 11037  
Rec'd: November 18, 1959  
10:16 a.m.

FROM: Hong Kong  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: 883, November 18, 5 p.m.

November 1 rumors commenced spreading locally that CHICOMS intended to clamp down on export of mainland newspapers. Until late last week, however, Consulate General was unable to determine whether such policy actually in force because of delay in transit of Shanghai and Peiping papers. Now becoming clear that policy is in force as Consulate General has received no issue of subscribed Shanghai or Peiping newspapers dated after October. Subscriptions affected are CHUNG KIO CHING MIEN PAO, TA KUNG PAO, KUANG MIEN JIH PAO, KUNG JEN JIH PAO, and WEN HUI PAO, the first four published in Peiping and the last in Shanghai. Consulate General continues to receive Canton edition party-run JEN MIN JIH PAO. China News Analysis and Union Press report similar experience.

Document Procurement Officer has not been able to obtain copies discontinued papers through black market dealers, and local newspaper and book dealers handling mainland publications fear that present ban may eventually be extended to other papers and periodicals. Documents available through black market dealers has gradually declined over past months.

STATINTL

Mainland provincial papers obtained [REDACTED] continues to flow at normal rate. Possibility that CHICOMS would curtail publications export was raised [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Consulate General making no change in existing however, until pattern of flow becomes clearer. STATINTL

Reason for ban not known. Possibility exists it tactical move connected with "anti-rightist" campaign, or that it stems from unfavorable picture of Communist China increasingly developing in peripheral area.

STATINTL

STATINTL

HOLMES

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

O-F-F-I-C-I-A-L U-S-E O-N-L-Y